

REMARKS

Claims 17 and 30 have been amended and new claim 31 added. Claims 1-5, 8-16 and 27-29 have been canceled in addition to claims 6 and 7 previously canceled. Claims 17-26, 30 and 31 are pending in this application.

I. Rejections under Section 112

The office action states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for “the flexible heating element” in claims 17 and 27. Accordingly, claim 17 has been amended to recite “a flexible heating element”. In view of this amendment, applicants submit that claim 17 is now clear and definite under Section 112. As a result, dependent claims 18-26 are now also clear and definite under Section 112. Claim 30 is now dependent on claim 17. Therefore, claim 30 is now also definite under Section 112.

The rejection of claims 27-29 under Section 112 is moot in view of the cancellation thereof.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-5 and 8-16 Based on Prior Art

The office action states that claims 1-5 and 8-16 are obvious and, therefore, not patentable in view of a number of different rejections under Section 103. In view of the cancellation of claims 1-5 and 8-16, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

The office action dated October 3, 2007 stated that claims 10 and 13 were allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, applicant had added new claims 17-30 where claims 17-26 included independent claim 17 that corresponds to a re-written claim 1 with the allowable limitations of claim 10 and claims 27-30 included independent claim 27 that corresponds to a re-written claim 11 with the limitations of allowable claim 13.

The office action states that claims 17-30 would be fully allowable over the prior art if the rejection under Section 112 is overcome. As per above, since the rejection of Section 112 has been overcome, applicants submit that claims 17-30 are now in condition for allowance.

Upon further review of claims 27-29, it appears that they are duplicative in scope of claims 17, 25 and 26, respectively. Therefore, claims 27-29 have been canceled. The dependency of claim 30, accordingly, has been amended to independent claim 17.

In view of the above, applicants submit that claims 17-26 and 30 are now in patentable condition.

IV. New Claim

Applicant has added new claim 31. Support for this new claim is found in paragraph 31 of the specification. Since this claim is dependent on allowable claim 17, it is submitted as also being allowable. Applicant has also included an extra fee for this added claim.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants submit that pending claims 17-26, 30 and 31 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the Rejections are requested. Allowance of claims 17-26, 30 and 31 at an early date is solicited.

If an extension of time is required for timely submission of this response, Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time and the Office is authorized to charge Deposit Account 02-0900 for the appropriate additional fees in connection with the filing of this response or credit any overpayment.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should any questions arise.

Respectfully submitted,

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